

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of fabricating a steel part, the method comprising the steps of:

· preparing and casting a steel having the following composition in percentage by weight:
 $0.06\% \leq C \leq 0.25\%$; $0.5\% \leq Mn \leq 2\%$; $\text{traces} \leq Si \leq 3\%$; $\text{traces} \leq Ni \leq 4.5\%$; $\text{traces} \leq Al \leq 3\%$;
 $\text{traces} \leq Cr \leq 1.2\%$; $\text{traces} \leq Mo \leq 0.30\%$; $\text{traces} \leq V \leq 2\%$; $\text{traces} \leq Cu \leq 3.5\%$;

and satisfying wherein the steel contains 5 ppm to 50 ppm of B, and 0.005% to 0.04% of Ti, where the Ti content is equal to at least 3.5 times the N content of the steel; and wherein the steel satisfies at least one of the following conditions:

* $0.5\% \leq Cu \leq 3.5\%$;

* $0.5\% \leq V \leq 2\%$;

* $2 \leq Ni \leq 4.5\%$ and $1\% \leq Al \leq 2\%$;

the remainder being iron and impurities resulting from preparation;

· hot deforming the cast steel at least once at a temperature in the range 1100°C to 1300°C in order to obtain a blank of the part;

· controlled cooling of the blank for the part in still air or forced air; and

· heating the steel to perform precipitation annealing before or after machining the part from said blank.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the steel contains 0.005% to 0.06% of Nb.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the steel contains 0.005% to 0.2% of S.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the steel contains at least one of the following elements: Ca up to 0.007%; Te up to 0.03%; Se up to 0.05%; Bi up to 0.05%; and Pb up to 0.1%.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the C content of the steel lies in the range 0.06% to 0.20%.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein Mn content of the steel lies in the range 0.5% to 1.5%, and wherein the Cr content lies in the range 0.3% to 1.2%.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the Ni content of the steel lies in the range traces to 1%.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the Ni content of the steel lies in the range 2% to 4.5%, and wherein the Al content lies in the range 1% to 2%.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the precipitation annealing is performed in the range 425°C to 600°C.
13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the steel contains 0.5% to 3.5% of Cu, and wherein the precipitation annealing is performed in the range 425°C to 500°C for 1 h to 10 h.
14. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the steel contains 0.5% to 2% of V, and wherein the precipitation annealing is performed in the range 500°C to 600°C for more than 1 h.
15. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the steel contains 2% to 4.5% of Ni and 1% to 2% of Al, and wherein the precipitation annealing is performed in the range 500°C to 550°C for more than 1 h.
16. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said hot deformation is rolling.
17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said hot deformation is forging.
18. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein controlled cooling of the blank is performed at a rate less than or equal to 3°C/s in the range 600°C to 300°C.
19. (Original) A steel part, obtained by the method according to claim 1.
20. (Original) A steel part according to claim 18, the part possessing bainite microstructure, tensile strength R_m of 750 MPa to 1300 MPa, and a yield strength R_e greater than or equal to 500 MPa.

21. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the steel part possesses bainite microstructure.